VI. PUBLIC HEALTH.

(1). Town Improvement Committees.—(*Concluded*).

116. Increased grants to Town Improvement Committees.

Mr. C. J. Verghese B. A.& B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Alleppey) submitted that the increasing expenditure by the Alleppey T. I. C. demanded consideration from Government. It was in 1913 that Government fixed an annual grant of Rs. 2,500 for 5 years which period would end with 1093. Since that decision, the town and port of Alleppey had been increasing in importance and in business activities of a diverse nature entailing additional expenditure. In return for the considerable sum spent on the upkeep of the port and the town as regards sanitation, there was nothing in the shape of revenue to the Committee either in the shape of canal or shipping dues. There was only additional liability. The grant from Government had gone down from Rs. 6,200 in 1082 to Rs. 2,500 in 1092 and the local collections had gone up from Rs. 2,987 to Rs. 12,861 while the expenditure during the same period had reached Rs. 15,321 from Rs. 8,169. The Member then pointed out the additional items of expenditure which the T. I. C. was obliged to bear in later years. While the grant was reduced, the Committee was required to meet expenditure on items which never came under its purview before. The total amount of additional expenditure thus thrown on the Committee during the past four years came to Rs. 6,513 or Rs. 1,628 per annum on an average. The Member argued that, the Government grant having been fixed at Rs. 2,500, the actual contribution by Government towards the T. I. C. was only Rs. 872 per annum. The Member, therfore, prayed that a more liberal grant be allowed to Alleppey on account of its commercial activities.

In reply to the Dewan's enquiry whether all the taxes contemplated by the Regulation had been imposed, the Member replied that all the taxes had been levied except the profession tax.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

VII. EDUCATION.—(*Continued*).

117. Introduction of Tamil as a compulsory language in all the schools in the Shencottah taluk.

Mr. P. Chellaswami Chinnananja Pandyan (Member, T. I. C., Shencottah) made the following suggestions:—

(1) That Vernacular be made the medium of instruction in all the classes of the Vernacular and English schools.

(2) That Vernacular be made a compulsory subject in all classes of schools.

(3) That Tamil be declared the Vernacular for the Shencottah taluk.

(4) That petitions written in Tamil be accepted in Government Offices.

(6) That the Text-book Committee be entrusted with the work of writing text-books in the Vernacular so that, at least in the course of one or two years, Vernacular might be made the medium of instruction in all schools.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

118. Need for affording increased help to students.

Mr. Peeli Pye Rama Pye (Member, Trading Classes, Kayankulam) submitted that, on account of the war, prices of articles were prohibitive, especially the price of cloth. The Member requested that, as was being done in some places in the Madras Presidency, coats and caps for school-boys should not be insisted on as laid down in the Education Code. A shirt should be declared sufficient. Secondly, the system of awarding free scholarships did not at present benefit poor school-boys. The Member's suggestion was that free scholarships should be given to poor students

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